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| **FALL 2006 NEWSLETTER**  GREETINGS FROM THE ACADEMIC SENATE:  As Chair-Elect of the Academic Senate, I will be providing you with quarterly updates on issues currently being addressed by Senate committees and the Cabinet, as well as topics of general interest to the Campus and University community.  The Academic Senate plays a critical role in the University of California’s process of shared governance.  Senate committees and the Cabinet provide advice and guidance to the members of the Administration, thereby presenting input from the faculty that are directly engaged in the teaching, research and service roles of the University.  The Senate’s input helps to guide the growth of the Campus, the hiring and promotion of faculty, and budgetary decisions that influence every facet of campus life.  In addition, the Senate is wholly responsible for academic issues, specifically courses, instruction and student admissions.  This system of shared governance only works when the faculty willingly accept their critical role in the process, and actively engage in the deliberations and dialogue inherent in joint action.  I urge all Senate members to take an active role in the work of the Senate.  Timothy Bradley  Chair Elect of the Academic Senate [chaire@uci.edu](mailto:chaire@uci.edu) |

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| [**Upcoming State-Wide Election on November 7**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue1.htm#election)  [**Some Issues Currently Before Councils and Committees of the Senate**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue1.htm#councilissues)   * [**Council on Planning and Budget**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue1.htm#cpb) * [**Council on Educational Policy**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue1.htm#cep) * [**Graduate Council**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue1.htm#gc) * [**Council on Research, Computing and Library Resources**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue1.htm#corclr) * [**Council on Faculty Welfare**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue1.htm#cfw)   [**Counseling Assistance for Students**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue1.htm#distress)  [**Counseling Available for Faculty**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue1.htm#overwhelmed)    **Upcoming State-Wide Election on November 7** In addition to the candidates running for elective office both state-wide and locally, this Tuesday’s ballot contains a number of initiatives for the electorate to consider.  The initiative of greatest consequence for UC Irvine is Proposition 1D.  This bond act would, if approved, fund the renovation and construction of a number of buildings and facilities critical to the Campus’ growth.  I have included here the comments recently sent by Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Michael Gottfredson to the campus community:  Many of you have raised questions about Proposition 1D's impact: At UC Irvine, the bond would provide approximately $157 million in funds over two years, 2006-07 and 2007-08, for the planning, construction and/or equipping of eight capital projects, including new buildings, renovations and infrastructure. The bond would support our strategic plan as a growth campus and is intended to meet the needs of an already growing student and academic community. We expect the number of enrolled students to increase from more than 25,000 today to 30,000 by 2011 and 32,000 by 2015.              The following Irvine projects would be funded by the bond.  *Arts Building*: $39,855,000. Provides 38,000 square feet of additional space.   *Biological Sciences Unit 3*: $3,268,000. Funds equipment for new building.   *Engineering Unit 3*: $3,292,000. Funds equipment for new building.   *Humanities Building*: $25,726,000. Provides 34,600 square feet of instructional, research and office space.   *Primary Electrical Improvements*: $2,571,000. Supports plans, working drawings and construction of upgrades to expand capacity of campus's electrical distribution system.   *Social and Behavioral Sciences Building*: $37,582,000. Provides 64,100 square feet of instructional, research and office space.   *Steinhaus Hall Seismic Improvements*: $9,681,000. Funds improvements to ensure continued safety of building.   *Medical Education Building*: $35,000,000. Funds 30,000 square feet on the main campus for instructional, research and office space for the PRIME-LC and telemedicine programs at the School of Medicine.  Funds also will be used to convert several rooms on campus and at the medical center to telemedicine consultation rooms.  Opponents to the school bond measure argue against adding to the state debt, believe that this particular bond is too large, and express concerns about how the funds will be spent. Supporters, including UC regents, say California needs to invest more in its education system. For more information about pros and cons of Proposition 1D, please visit: [http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/prop1d](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/prop1d" \t "_blank)  **Some Issues Currently before Councils and Committees of the Senate**  **Council on Planning and Budget** Members of the Council on Planning and Budget are also members of the Academic Planning Group (APG).  The APG is advisory to the Executive Vice Chancellor and is charged with reviewing requests for faculty FTE submitted by Chairs, Deans and Directors.  This fall, the APG is reviewing the strategic plans produced by each of the Schools to assure that goals and directions are adequately described and that the aspirations of the Schools and Departments, as outlined in their plans, are articulated with the Strategic Plan of the campus as a whole.  The plans will help to guide the growth and direction of the Schools and Campus in the coming years, as well as serving to attract and direct financial gifts provided by the community and our alumni.  **Council on Educational Policy** The Council on Educational Policy (CEP) is currently refining the Plan for General Education.  This plan is the product of a multi-year process involving the entire UCI campus.  In 2004, the Task Force on Undergraduate Education published a set of recommendations that were intended primarily to streamline the breadth requirements and allow students greater flexibility in satisfying them.  The Campus was then invited to submit comments.  CEP reviewed the Task Force report and comments and designed a Plan for General Education, which went to the Campus for comment in Spring 2006.  That round of comments is being addressed and reflected in the revised plan.  **Graduate Council** Graduate Council has been active in recent years in assisting with the new guaranteed student housing policy for MFA and PhD students.  The Council will continue to discuss and review this policy, and monitor its effectiveness as a recruiting tool for graduate students.  Graduate Council is working closely with Carolyn Boyd, the newly appointed Graduate Dean.  Goals are to target diversity more specifically and to offer more diversity fellowships, to develop new academic and professional programs, to encourage interdisciplinary programs, and to offer improved services for graduate students with a particular emphasis on affordable housing.  **Council on Research, Computing and Library Resources** In October, the Council on Research, Computing and Library Resources re-allocated more than half of its funds to the academic units’ School Research Committees (SRCs) to award competitive faculty research grants to:   * Individual researchers for small research projects, * Pilot efforts leading to proposals for extramural funding, or * Travel for research or for presenting research findings at conferences.   These funds play a critical role in promoting innovation and as a source of seed money for projects in their initial phases.  **Council on Faculty Welfare** This Fall, the Council on Faculty Welfare (CFW) focused on two sets of issues: 1) faculty compensation/benefits; and 2) diversity/equity.  Locally and systemwide, CFW is working to ensure that faculty pay comes into line with pay at competitor institutions as quickly as possible while keeping total compensation (i.e., including benefits) whole as health costs rise and retirement contributions resume.  CFW is encouraging UC to address these issues in a way that also restores the system-wide salary scale to have a meaningful relationship with the peer-reviewed merit system.  It also is working to ensure that UC's defined benefit plan remains healthy; it is an increasingly valuable asset for recruitment and retention as our competitors eliminate theirs.  With regard to diversity/equity, CFW is participating in a new Senate Diversity Committee that will attempt to engage all Senate Councils and hence all parts of UCI's mission, in increasing the diversity of our faculty, student (graduate and undergraduate) and staff populations.  As a public university, we are responsible to the citizens who employ us; so as California becomes more diverse, so must UC and UCI.  Creating an inclusive environment also requires careful attention to equity therefore CFW is encouraging the Senate to engage the administration in dialogue about equity issues related to faculty pay and promotion procedures.  **Counseling Assistance for Students** **Please be aware of the following sources of assistance for students in distress:**   * The **Campus Counseling Center** ([http://www.counseling.uci.edu/](http://www.counseling.uci.edu/" \t "_blank) ) offers free short term counseling sessions and groups for undergraduate and graduate students dealing with stress and relationship issues, as well as crisis intervention. * The **Mental Health Division of the Student Health Center** ([http://www.shs.uci.edu/mental\_health.html](http://www.shs.uci.edu/mental_health.html" \t "_blank) ) offers services for undergraduate counseling and psychotherapy and has the ability to diagnose and treat mental/emotional illnesses and learning disorders such as depression, eating disorders, bipolar disorder, panic disorder, social phobia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, posttraumatic stress disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and personality disorders. The new Mental Health Coordinator for the Mental Health Clinic is Corinne Veiga at (949) 824-1835. * Graduate student mental health benefits are provided through the mandatory **GSHIP** coverage[http://www.rgs.uci.edu/grad/students/gship/glance.htm](http://www.rgs.uci.edu/grad/students/gship/glance.htm" \t "_blank) * The **UCI Campus Police** are trained to respond to after hours emergencies, and can be contacted at 911 from a campus phone or (949) 824-5222 from other phones.   **Counseling Available for Faculty** **The Faculty and Staff Counseling Center** (FSCC) provides service for members of the campus community and their dependents who are experiencing any of a wide range of problems which may affect their personal lives and/or professional careers. Faculty and emeritae/i, are encouraged to contact Njeeri Wa Ngugi, director of the Faculty and Staff Counseling Center, for access to confidential counseling services on life issues as substance abuse, financial problems, domestic relationships, and work related issues. A certified counseling psychologist is on staff and the first five counseling sessions are offered at no charge. The confidential counseling may be the first step you or a colleague may need to remove unnecessary stress from your life at UCI. |